

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 GSA-01 OEP-01 L-03 COME-00 CIAE-00

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O R 071609Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, TH

SUBJECT:LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER THANOM
ON TIN DISPOSALS

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO
PRIME MINISTER THANOM:

QUOTE AUGUST 6, 1973

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER

QUOTE AS YOU WILL RECALL FROM MY LETTER OF JUNE 4, 1973,
FOLLOWINGCONSULTATIONSWITH THAILAND AND OTHER TIN
PRODUCING COUNTRIES I AUTHORIZED THE SALE OF 1,500 TONS
OF TIN FROM THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC STOCKPILE DURING THE
LAST MONTH OF FISCAL YEAR 1973 AND THE SALE OF AN ADDITIONAL
5,000 TONS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF FISCAL YEAR 1974.

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DEMAND FOR THIS TIN HAS BEEN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED. THE

1,500 TONS SOLD WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND THE 5,000 TONS, WHICH WE ANTICIPATED SELLING OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD, WAS DISPOSED OF WITHIN THE FIRST FIFTEEN DAYS OF JULY.

QUOTE DESPITE THESE PROMPT SALES, TIN MARKET PRICES HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE, REACHING RECORD HIGHS ON BOTH THE LONDON AND NEW YORK MARKETS. INDEED, MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE PRICES AT THE CURRENT LEVELS, IF SUSTAINED, WILL HASTEN THE SUBSTITUTION OF TIN-FREE STEEL AND OTHER METALS

FOR TINPLATE, A DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD THREATEN THE INTERESTS OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

QUOTE BECAUSE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS AN INTEREST IN MARKET STABILITY, I HAVE DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES REGARDING A FURTHER INCREASE IN OUR DISPOSAL PROGRAM FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. YOU MAY BE CERTAIN, AS I ASSURED YOU IN MY EARLIER LETTER, THAT IN DIRECTING THIS UNDERTAKING I WISH TO AVOID ANY UNDUE DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD MARKET, AS WELL AS ANY ACTION THAT WOULD HARM THAILAND'S INTERESTS OR DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF OUR REVISED DISPOSAL PROGRAM, SHOULD TIN PRICES DROP PRECIPITOUSLY FROM THEIR PRESENT RECORD LEVELS.

QUOTE WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, RICHARD NIXON

QUOTE HIS EXCELLENCY, FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKACHORN, PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND, BANGKOK, THAILAND UNQUOTE.

2. CABLE IMMEDIATE WHEN MESSAGE DELIVERED AS DEPT INTENDS BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH PRODUCER EMBASSY REPS ON AUG 8.

3. ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOLLOWS BY POUCH. ROGERS
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